

Services. He was later appointed assistant commissioner for administration, with a subsequent promotion to deputy commissioner for management and budget.

Mr. Still has extensive expertise in the financing of community mental hygiene programs and helped develop and implement numerous reforms of the system in New York State, culminating in the Community Mental Health Resources Act of 1993, landmark legislation that reinvests mental health funding from State psychiatric facilities to community services.

Dan is married to Lydia Still, an early childhood teacher, and they have two children in college. Mr. Still is active in an array of community activities and civic organizations. I am pleased to commend him for his efforts and contributions.

HONORING JAMES BONNER

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, when Alabama was redistricted a few years ago, Wilcox County was taken from the 1st District and put in the 7th District. While I am no longer privileged to represent the people of Wilcox County here in the House of Representatives, I obviously made a lot of friends there over the years, and I still value those friendships very much.

One of those friends is James Bonner. James is a man who tells it like he sees it, which in this day and time is a rare quality indeed. And if you are lucky enough to count James as your friend, you know you've got a friend for life.

James was recently honored with a front page tribute in his hometown newspaper, the Wilcox Progressive Era. The headline of the story tells it all—"James Bonner: One of Camden's living legends."

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to submit for the RECORD the entire article on James Bonner, written by our mutual friend, M. Hollis Curl, the editor and publisher of the Progressive Era. And while I'm at it, I'd like to join Hollis in adding my thanks, too, to James, for all he has done for so many people. Keep it up, James, for many more years to come.

JAMES BONNER: ONE OF CAMDEN'S LIVING LEGENDS

If you're among Camden's younger residents—below 40—or a newcomer, chances are you don't know a whole lot about the elderly gentleman you've seen making his way along Broad Street each morning with the help of an aluminum walker and under the watchful eye of his driver or secretary.

If you're a native of Camden—one of the oldtimers—you know the gentleman as Mr. James Bonner. If you do know him chances are, small town's being what they are, that you have strong opinions about him; just as he certainly does about you.

Yes, sir, James Bonner is a forceful, opinionated individual. If he likes you, you have a friend forever. And no one is ever likely to know the breadth of his benevolence. James has helped failing businesses, folks with catastrophic illnesses, and he has sent numer-

ous kids to school. He has a big, big heart. We just hope he doesn't take offense at our noting the softer side of his personality!

On the other hand, if he doesn't like you you can at least take comfort in the fact that your transgression has merited you the considerable wrath of a formidable adversary! James doesn't waste his time on petty individuals.

We heard a fellow say the other day that "James Bonner would wrestle a circle saw when he was younger". That's true as far as it goes. Actually, James Bonner will take on any foe right now. Eighty-plus years have not diminished his zest for espousing causes and pursuing them to satisfactory conclusions.

In the old days—when Bonner Brothers consisted of his late brothers Billy and Josiah Robins (James' twin) the trio were genuine movers and shakers in the Wilcox County community.

Land, timber and minerals were their primary focus but they dabbled in other things too. Billy, it is said, did yeoman duty while Jo Robins—who was Probate Judge at the time of his death—handled lawyering. Nobody ever doubted, though, that James Bonner was the thinker in that trinity.

But things have changed somewhat. Time—and better than eighty years—mandate a few changes. But none have been mental. James Bonner is as sharp today as he was back in 1929 when he left Wilcox County to attend Erskine College.

When he returned in the early 30's he taught school at Oak Grover near Pine Hill. He was at one time principal of that school and the one at Lower Peach Tree.

When World War II broke out James volunteered as a buck private in the Army Air Corps. He quickly advanced to corporal and it wasn't long before his superiors sent him to Officer Candidate School at Miami Beach.

After graduating as a lieutenant, James went to Wright Field in Ohio. A brief stint at the intelligence school in Harrisburg, PA, earned him the position of Post Intelligence Officer at what was to become Wright-Patterson AFB.

It was about then, with the war in full swing, that James recalled that his grandfather CSA Major James Bonner had been a courier during the War Between the States. That bit of family heritage prompted him to volunteer for often dangerous duty in the Courier Service.

As a courier stationed in San Francisco, James traveled all over the war-torn world under direct order from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He delivered invasion maps and decoding equipment to forces fighting in the South Pacific, Australia, India and etc. It was while in New Guinea delivering these maps to General Douglas MacArthur that his ship was torpedoed by the Japanese. Luckily, the torpedo was a dud and did not explode.

Once, while waiting on the airstrip at the Pacific island of Biak, the Japanese bombed the strip while James was on the flight line. It was there that he met Col. Bill Darwin (who now lives in Camden) who was in charge of the anti aircraft unit guarding the field. James says he recalls vividly watching Bill's men repel the Japs.

James' recollection of WWII also includes memories of Lt. Gen. David Godwin Barr, of Nanafalia. Gen. Barr was MacArthur's assistant and directed the bombing of Japan and the destruction of the Japanese fleet. Barr's air unit also carried out the mission of dropping the Atomic bombs that ended the war.

After the war, James remembers, Col. R.R. "Fritz" Carothers, of Oak Hill and Camden (Mayor at one time) was assigned the job of

special courier to carry pictures and information directly to President Harry Truman.

A sad memory for James was the death of a Camden native—a young prisoner of war—who was murdered by the Japanese a week after the Peace Treaty was signed aboard the deck of the battleship Missouri.

Following the war, James' courier unit was instrumental in delivering the documents throughout the world to countries which became part of the United Nations.

When James Bonner returned to Camden after the war he was confident that his military duty had been fulfilled. But it was not to be. He was called back to active duty during the Korean War to serve with the Strategic Air Command at Barksdale AFB. Legendary general Curtis LeMay was his commanding officer.

James eventually did retire, with the rank of Major, and has devoted his time to business—and worthy causes—ever since.

From a civic standpoint, James Bonner is the only surviving member of the original Industrial Board which helped pave the way for MacMillan Bloedel's coming to Wilcox County.

And it was with the help of fellow civic leaders John Webb, W.J. Bonner, Mrs. Clyde Miller and others that the Solomon Brothers sewing plant came here and is now the oldest local industry still operating with a steady payroll.

James also worked with the late Dr. Shannon "Shine" Hollinger, DVM, in securing a \$1 million bond issue for the establishment of Camden Mills on the Bypass. The facility presently houses IKS Services.

Yes, James Bonner has witnessed many changes over the years. Some have been good and others not so good. He is particularly disappointed by the fact that state politicians have not kept the promises they made during the last election.

But from a civic standpoint it might be good that all the promises haven't been kept. That means that James Bonner will stay motivated to be a part of the things that make Camden and Wilcox County better.

Thanks James. Keep on Keeping on!

85TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to make note of and salute the upcoming 85th National Day of the Republic of China [ROC] on Taiwan which will be celebrated on Thursday, October 10, 1996.

I wish the ROC every success in its adoption and implementation of a pragmatic diplomacy; and its work toward a greater international voice and acceptance in the world community. We should all recognize that this is a country which has made a truly impressive effort to improve its position and gain recognition in the world community—becoming the world's 19th largest economy and 7th largest U.S. trading partner.

On this very special day to the ROC, I extend my congratulations to both the President of the ROC, Dr. Lee Teng-hui, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative in the United States, Dr. Jason Chih-chiang Hu.